

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USUN N 00954 01 OF 02 310135Z
ACTION IO-06

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2993
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 0954

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KN, KS, US
SUBJECT: MEETING BETWEEN AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND REPUBLIC OF KOREA
FOREIGN MINISTER PARK, MARCH 22, 1977 AND SUBSEQUENT
RELATED MATTERS

REF: (A) SEOUL 1311 (NOTAL, (B) USUN 244 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: WHEN AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND REPUBLIC OF KOREA
(ROK) FOREIGN MINISTER PARK MET FOR BREAKFAST IN NEW YORK
MARCH 22, THEY DISCUSSED ROK-US RELATIONS INCLUDING IMPORTANCE IN
THIS CONNECTION OF ROK IMAGE IN US, APRIL 6-11 NEW DELHI
MINISTERIAL-LEVEL MEETING OF NONALIGNED COORDINATING
COMMITTEE (NACC), AND ROK GOAL AGAIN TO AVOID DISCUSSION
OF KOREAN QUESTION AT 32ND UNGA. ADDITIONALLY, THEY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USUN N 00954 01 OF 02 310135Z

DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF EVENTUAL ADMITTANCE OF BOTH
KOREAS TO UN. WITH REGARD TO NEW DELHI MEETING OF NACC,
ROK IS LOBBYING HARD IN NEW YORK WITH FRIENDLY NACC REPRESENTATIVES
AS WELL AS IN NACC CAPITALS TO DISCOURAGE CONFRONTATIONAL
TREATMENT OF KOREAN QUESTION. AS TO NORTH KOREAN INTENTIONS
AT NEW DELHI, WE HAVE REPORT THAT NORTH KOREANS MAY TRY
TO GET REFERENCE IN NEW DELHI NACC DECLARATION TO NORTH KOREAN

LETTER OF JANUARY 25, 1977 WHICH CALLED FOR "POLITICAL CONFERENCE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL POLITICAL PARTIES, PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS, AND PEOPLE IN THE NORTH AND SOUTH." IN DOING SO, PYONGYANG WOULD BE SEEKING TO COUNTER SEOUL'S INTERNATIONALLY WELL-RECEIVED APPEALS FOR RESUMPTION OF SOUTH-NORTH TALKS. AT THE SAME TIME, PYONGYANG WOULD NOT BE GOING BACK ON ITS POSITION, HELD SINCE THE BREAK-OFF OF SOUTH-NORTH TALKS IN 1973, OF RULING OUT TALKS WITH ROK PRESIDENT PARK'S GOVERNMENT. YOUNG AND PARK THOUGHT CORE GROUP MIGHT USEFULLY CONSIDER OVERALL SITUATION REGARDING KOREA AND 32ND UNGA AFTER NEW DELHI RETURNS ARE IN. END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND FOREIGN MINISTER PARK EXCHANGED CORDIAL GREETINGS. PARK APPLAUDED PRESIDENT CARTER'S MARCH 17 SPEECH AT UN HEADQUARTERS AND STRESSED THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF DEVELOPING STATES HAD TAKEN PARTICULAR NOTE OF SECTION ON STABILIZATION OF COMMODITY PRICES AND ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMON FUNDING ARRANGEMENT FOR FINANCING BUFFER STOCKS. PARK EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT ROK EXPORTS WERE NINETY PERCENT MANUFACTURED GOODS. YOUNG AND PARK AGREED THAT THE BLANKET TERM "THIRD WORLD" WAS MISLEADING SINCE THERE WAS GREAT VARIETY OF ECONOMIC EMPHASES AND DEGREES OF DEVELOPMENT AMONG SO-CALLED "THIRD WORLD" COUNTRIES.

3. PARK STRESSED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER AND SECRETARY VANCE HAD MADE CLEAR TO HIM IN WASHINGTON THAT THE US WOULD NOT UNDERTAKE CONTACTS WITH NORTH KOREA WITHOUT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USUN N 00954 01 OF 02 310135Z

FULL CONSULTATION WITH THE ROK. THEY HAD ALSO ASSURED PARK OF CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH SEOUL ON US TROOP WITHDRAWALS. PARK UNDERLINED TO YOUNG THAT TROOP WITHDRAWAL WAS SUBJECT OF GREAT INTEREST AND IMPORTANCE TO ROK PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENT. PARK SAID THAT KEYSTONE OF ROK FOREIGN POLICY WOULD REMAIN A CLOSE AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH US.

4. PARK TOLD YOUNG THAT ROK'S GOAL AT NEXT UNGA WAS TO AVOID AGAIN DEBATE ON KOREAN QUESTION. (COMMENT: ACCORDING TO UN UNDERSECRETARY GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY AFFAIRS BUFFUM, PARK ALSO STRESSED THIS POINT TO UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM ON MARCH 22.) PARK CONTINUED THAT THE ROK HAD BEEN CONCENTRATING DURING RECENT MONTHS ON PROMOTING ITS RELATIONS IN AFRICA AND THAT IT WAS PREPARING TO FIGHT HARD SHOULD DEBATE ON KOREA MATERIALIZE AT NEXT FALL'S UNGA. PARK LOOKED FORWARD TO YOUNG'S SUPPORT ON THE KOREAN QUESTION. (ROK OBSERVER OFFICE HAS ADVISED US THAT PRESIDENT NUMAYRI OF SUDAN ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY

MARCH 28 THAT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ROK WOULD BE ESTABLISHED SOON.)

5. WHEN CONVERSATION TURNED TO APRIL 6-11 MINISTERIAL-LEVEL MEETING OF THE NONALIGNED COORDINATING COMMITTEE IN NEW DELHI, ROK PERMANENT OBSERVER PARK SAID THE ROK HAD REPORTS THAT NORTH KOREA WAS SENDING A LARGE OBSERVER DELEGATION HEADED BY A MINISTER TO NEW DELHI WHERE BOTH ROK AND NORTH KOREA MAINTAIN EMBASSIES. PARK CONTINUED THAT INDIA'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE JAIPAL HAD TOLD HIM, HOWEVER, THE KOREA WAS NOT A SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEM FOR THE NEW DELHI MEETING. (DURING PARK'S VISIT TO NEW YORK MARCH 17-22, HE INVITED MANY REPRESENTATIVES OF NACC COUNTRIES TO LUNCHEONS. CORE GROUP REPRESENTATIVES WERE SPRINKLED IN WITH THESE.) ADDITIONALLY, ROK OBSERVER OFFICE IN NEW YORK AND ROK EMBASSIES IN NACC CAPITALS HAVE BEEN LOBBYING NACC REPRESENTATIVES TO REQUEST CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 USUN N 00954 01 OF 02 310135Z

AVOIDANCE OF CONFRONTATIONAL TREATMENT OF KOREA AT NEW DELHI. RESULTS FOLLOWING ROK CONTACTS WITH ELEVEN NACC MEMBERS AND TWENTY-FOUR OTHER NONALIGNED STATES HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGING ACCORDING TO ROK OBSERVER MISSION MARCH 29. FURTHERMORE, ROK OBSERVER OFFICE IS SENDING COUNSELOR H.H. LEE TO NEW DELHI FOR THE NACC TO BACK UP ROK EMBASSY. LEE ALSO COVERED COLOMBO NONALIGNED SUMMIT. AS TO NORTH KOREAN TACTICS AT NEW DELHI, WE LEARNED MARCH 28 FROM INDONESIA'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE AMBASSADOR SANI WHO WILL ATTEND NEW DELHI MEETING THAT NORTH KOREANS WILL PROBABLY TRY TO EXPLOIT THEIR CONSIDERABLY PUBLICIZED JANUARY 25 1977 PROPOSAL FOR DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN "PEOPLES ORGANIZATIONS" FROM NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA (REFS (A) AND (B)).

CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USUN N 00954 02 OF 02 310152Z

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 EA-06 NEA-07 SSO-00 NSC-05
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O 310030Z MAR 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
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INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
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USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USUN 0954

LIMDIS

IN THIS CONNECTION, ROK OBSERVER OFFICE BELIEVES THAT NORTH KOREANS MAY TRY TO GET REFERENCE TO JANUARY 25 PROPOSAL IN NEW DELHI NACC DECLARATION. ROK OBSERVER OFFICE NOTED TO US THAT NORTH KOREANS HAVE REALIZED EFFECTIVENESS IN UN CONTEXT AMONG NONALIGNED AND OTHER COUNTRIES OF SEOUL'S EMPHASIS ON NEED AND READINESS FOR DIRECT TALKS BETWEEN SOUTH AND NORTH. THROUGH JANUARY 25 LETTER, WHICH CALLED FOR A "POLITICAL CONFERENCE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL THE POLITICAL PARTIES, PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE IN THE NORTH AND SOUTH" THAT DESIRE REUNIFICATION, PYONGYAN MAY SEEK TO COUNTER SEOUL'S APPEALS FOR TALKS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WHILE AT SAME TIME AVOIDING EXPRESSION OF READINESS TO RESUME INTER-GOVERNMENTAL NORTH-SOUTH TALKS BROKEN OFF BY THE NORTH IN 1973. WE HAVE POINTED OUT TO ROK OBSERVER OFFICE NEED TO CAUTION NACC COUNTRIES AGAINST NORTH KOREAN EFFORTS TO BEFOG
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USUN N 00954 02 OF 02 310152Z

ISSUE OF NORTH-SOUTH TALKS THROUGH THIS PLOY.)

6. YOUNG AND PARK AGREED THAT CORE GROUP MIGHT MEET TO BEGIN CONSIDERATION OF SITUATION ON KOREAN QUESTION AT 32ND UNGA AFTER RETURNS FROM NEW DELHI NACC MEETING ARE IN.

7. PARK FELT THAT EVENTUAL ADMISSION OF VIETNAM TO UN MEMBERSHIP MIGHT PAVE WAY FOR A RENEWED MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION BY ROK. HE LOOKED POSITIVELY ON POSSIBILITY THAT BOTH KOREAS MIGHT SOME DAY BE ADMITTED, BUT NOTED REALISTICALLY THAT USSR AND PRC COULD HAVE IMPORTANT ROLES IN PERSUADING PYONGYAN TO ACCEPT MEMBERSHIP OF A DIVIDED KOREA. PARK STRESSED THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF REUNIFICATION, BUT OBSERVED THAT FOR A LONG TIME TO COME REUNIFICATION WAS MOST UNLIKELY. PARK MENTIONED PRECEDENT OF TWO GERMANIES TO POINT OUT THAT UN MEMBERSHIP NEED NOT PREJUDICE RETENTION OF ULTIMATE GOAL OF REUNIFICATION.

8. TURNING TO NORTH KOREA'S INTERNATIONAL POSITION, PARK OBSERVED THAT THE NORTH'S ECONOMY WAS IN BAD SHAPE. HE WAS PHILOSOPHICAL IN THIS CONNECTION ABOUT RECENT RESCHEDULING OF HARD CURRENCY DEBTS OWED BY NORTH KOREA TO WESTERN LENDERS. PARK COMMENTED THAT RESCHEDULING WAS THE ONLY CHOICE. PARK COMMENTED THAT HEAVY-HANDED NORTH KOREAN ACTIONS AT COLOMBO AND PANMUNJOM AS WELL AS SMUGGLING SCANDAL IN SCANDINAVIA HAD FURTHER DAMAGED PYONGUANG'S IMAGE. (AUSTRALIA'S MISSION HAS PROVIDED US SINCE WITH AN ARTICLE ENTITLED "PYONGYANG BACK IN THE NARCOTICS BUSINESS" BY DENIS WARNER FROM THE "SYDNEY MORNING HERALD OF MARCH 21, 1977, REPORTING AMONG OTHER THINGS THE EXPULSION BETWEEN FEBRUARY 10 AND 13, 1977 FROM EAST GERMAN OF NORTH KOREA'S AMBASSADOR AND STAFF FOR DRUG SMUGGLING.)

9. BEFORE CONCLUDING HIS CONVERSATION WITH PARK, YOUNG STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF US PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL OPINION REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF US RELATIONS WITH ROK. YOUNG REMAINED PARK THAT IN RECENT MONTHS, DUE TO ALLEGED CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USUN N 00954 02 OF 02 310152Z

ROK-RELATED ACTIVITIES IN THE US AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS IN ROK, SEOUL HAD GOTTEN A VERY BAD PRESS IN US. HE RECOMMENDED TO PARK, THEREFORE, THAT SEOUL TAKE SOME POSITIVE ACTIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO ENHANCE ITS PUBLIC IMAGE HERE. YOUNG SAID THAT CHURCH GROUPS WERE FREQUENTLY IN TOUCH WITH HIM ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE ROK.

10. PARK REPLIED BY EXPRESSING FULL AWARENESS OF THESE PROBLEMS, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT ROK LAW APPLIES EQUALLY TO ALL AND THAT EXCEPTIONS COULD NOT BE MADE. HE STRESSED THE DIFFERENCE IN THE GEOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS OF THE ROK AND THE US. THE ROK WAS THREATENED BY A HOSTILE COMMUNIST STATE POISED ONLY 25 MILES FROM SEOUL. THE US, ON THE OTHER HAND, WAS SHIELDED BY TWO GREAT OCEANS. PARK SAID THAT BECAUSE ORIENTAL PRIDE AND CHARACTER WOULD LEAD TO STIFFENING IN THE FACE OF PRESSURE, THE WAY TO GET RESULTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS WAS THROUGH QUIET DISCUSSION BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND SEOUL. TO CONCLUDE CONVERSATION AND BEFORE EXCHANGING CORDIAL GOOD-BYES WITH PARK, YOUNG REEMPHASIZED THAT HE HAD RAISED HUMAN RIGHTS BECAUSE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO THEM IN THE US. (ACCORDING TO ROK OBSERVER OFFICE, PARK WAS VERY WELL PLEASED WITH HIS OPEN CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG.)
YOUNG

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Message Attributes

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